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We had for lunch today:

Mr. and Mrs. Shepperson
Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong
Mr. Lewis
Mrs. Jessup

Archie Shepperson retired some years ago, as Dean at the University of Virginia. He is a splendid fellow, and I am devoted to his wife, Philippa, my first cousin. They had with them their daughter, Sandra, and her husband, Mr. Armstrong. I had not seen Sandra since she gave up her studies in architecture to marry an architect. The inimitable Lefty Lewis is staying with us. Lois Jessup has just come over from the Hague, where Phil is a Judge.

Relying largely on Ray Courtney's assessment of the situation, I sent off today a telegram on the speculation now running riot in the newspapers regarding the possibility of Macmillan offering de Gaulle nuclear information.

I went over to Paris this afternoon, to dine with George Ball and Tom Finletter. Before doing so, I met Jessie Bruce at the Continental Hotel, and had a talk with her about her application for a job in the Paris Embassy. While Jessie and I were conferring in the Continental Bar, Janet Flanner came in. She had been spending the day at the Salan trial. She thinks he and all his co-conspirators should be executed. It was only later tonight that we heard the news of Salan being sentenced to life imprisonment. This verdict will be variously viewed in France and Algeria, but if ever a man were guilty, judged by every accepted standard of what constitutes being a traitor, he is without defense on that score.

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I went to Tom Finletter's for dinner, and to spend the night. First, I visited my old friend Antoine and his wife, Isabelle, who has been the concierge at 17 rue Alfred Dehodencq since the house was built. George Ball, Jack Tuthill, Tom and myself dined together. It was a feast. I had almost forgotten how good French food can be.

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Stephenson had apprehended the onset of the Second World War long in advance. Through his manifold business and personal connections in Europe, he had established, at his own expense, a private intelligence system. Information derived from it was passed on to appropriate quarters in London.

Therefore, actual hostilities found him neither surprised nor unprepared, though he could not then have envisaged the scope of his own later responsibilities.

When he was persuaded to set up the British Security Coordination ~~service. (2)~~ with headquarters in New York, he assumed control over all British clandestine activities in the Western Hemisphere. His mandate included, within that area, command over functions that, in London, were fragmented under the jurisdiction of several ministries.

It was his conviction, months before Pearl Harbour, that the United States should possess a similar organization for use abroad. He hoped it would be headed by his friend, William J. Donovan. To achieve this end, he brought, through subtle influences, the merits of such a proposal to the attention of President Roosevelt.

Donovan was established by President Roosevelt as Coordinator of Information, with a broad grant of authority to conduct clandestine, as well as some overt, operations, together with other broad powers, such as had never previously existed in the United States. The resultant organization was later known as the Office of Strategic Services.

At the end of the war, Donovan acknowledged his obligation to Stephenson, saying "Without.....". I can myself testify, as a subordinate of Donovan's, that I could not have carried out my own particular duties with

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The selection has been eclectic; it includes painting, sculpture, drawings, engravings, ~~.~~ver, and other objets d'art.

I am sure that, after visiting the exhibition, we shall all be grateful for this imaginative loan.

For a long time, those charged with the responsibility of caring for the contents of Art Museums, have been reluctant, and I think rightly, to send collections on tour because of the risks involved. The danger is not alone ~~in~~ from fire and theft; it more frequently arises from the effects of drastic climatic changes on the surface, and even on the substance, of a work of art. This is, of course, particularly true of paintings on wood. Therefore, the Trustees of Oberlin, and those who advised them in this matter, are entitled to especial thanks, for departing from what is normal museum practice.

One further comment. I have followed while in England, with great interest, the controversy over whether or not the Elgin marbles should be returned to Greece. It is not for me, a foreigner, to venture an opinion on this subject. Nevertheless, in looking over the catalogue of this exhibition, wherein is listed the extraordinary variety of countries of origin of these important items, one reflects on the chaos likely to ensue if all art objects held abroad were returned to those places where their authors had been born or had resided. The human mind can hardly contemplate or speculate upon the consequences without alarm.

I now declare open the Exhibition of Works of Art from the Oberlin College Collection.

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